

WAR CONGRESS BILLS NOW AIM AT 'HOME' FOES

Committees Frame First Measures Chiefly Against Spies

LEADERS TO DEMAND WILSON BE DEFINITE

Actual War Declaration Against Germany, However, Not Expected

PLANS TO BOOM ARMY

Washington Again Hears Peace Rumors and Berlin Attempt to Deflect Russia

WASHINGTON, March 28. There is the highest authority for the statement that President Wilson believes Germany now actually is making war on this country and that he will ask Congress to recognize this fact officially by taking steps to meet it with the army and the navy.

WASHINGTON, March 28. With the arrival of Colonel E. M. House at the White House today the belief was general that President Wilson was rapidly whipping his message into shape and had called in his personal friend and adviser to go over some of the details of it. It promises to be the longest address the President has delivered to Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 28. The House Committee on Ways and Means and Foreign Affairs today began the work on legislation to be rushed through Congress next week to meet the German emergency.

The first committee began a survey of the ground to devise means for raising revenue to meet the enormous expense of putting the country on a war footing. Chairman Flood, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, with lawyers from the Department of Justice, began the task of formulating an act to punish espionage and all activities interfering with American foreign relations.

This espionage measure will be very comprehensive in its provisions. It will penalize many activities for which, under the general statutes, there is no provision at present. It especially will punish crimes which embarrass the Government in its relations with other nations.

CONGRESS MEASURES

The measure which Chairman Flood and Department of Justice experts began to formulate today will provide:

First. Punishment of all persons who make or disseminate information respecting national defense. This provision is comprehensive in its protection of all army, navy and coast guard secrets which could in any way be useful to an enemy.

Second. Authority for the President in time of war or military necessity to designate as a "prohibited place" any locality concerning which information would be valuable to an enemy. This provision is likewise to cover all Government records and files relating to the country's defenses.

Third. Punishment of all persons who make false statements to influence any foreign Government in its dealings with the United States. Stringent means to prevent the issuance or use of false passports and the counterfeiting of the Government seal also are included.

Fourth. Strict regulations of the conduct of all foreign vessels in American ports. This provision authorizes the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, in time of war or threatened disturbance, to assume full jurisdiction over all craft in American waters. If necessary, this includes the placing of armed guards on ships and the removal of the ships' officers and crews.

Fifth. Protection for all American or foreign vessels engaged in foreign commerce against fire, bombs or the destruction of their machinery.

SEVERE PENALTIES

Terms of imprisonment ranging from two to three years to twenty years and even death are under consideration as penalties for those who violate the act. The act is designed to supplement existing laws and to provide for the better enforcement of criminal laws already on the statute books.

At the present time Department of Justice experts admit that no law exists for the punishment of many acts which have been committed in all parts of the country for the specific purpose of embarrassing the United States in its dealings with Germany.

The meeting of the House Ways and Means Committee was called by Majority Leader Kitchin, chairman, in order that no one may be lost in financing war when a declaration comes. At any rate an enormous amount of revenue will have to be raised to meet the great expenses incidental to the war preparations already under way. This situation was discussed today only in the most general terms by Chairman Kitchin, whose pacifist views are

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THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight, with lowest temperature about forty degrees; Thursday fair and warmer; moderate westerly winds.

LENGTH OF DAY 5:53 a.m. Moon rises 6:29 a.m. Moon sets 4:55 p.m. DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES CHESTNUT STREET WATER 12:36 a.m. Low water 12:48 p.m. High water 1:22 p.m. TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

Table with 2 columns: Time (10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) and Temperature (41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41, 41)

FIRST REGIMENT MEMBERS READY FOR ORDERS TO MOVE



Prompt response marked the call for mobilization of the two infantry bodies stationed at Philadelphia. At both armories the guardsmen, prepared to depart at short notice, reported early today to their company commanders and there were few stragglers.

BERLIN MAY RENEW PLAN TO END WAR

Chancellor to Make Proposal Tomorrow, Amsterdam Hears SCHEDULED TO SPEAK

Kaiser Has Diabetes, Aggravated by Worry

BERNE, March 28. KAISER WILHELM is suffering from a mild form of diabetes and is undergoing treatment at Homburg, according to wireless dispatches received here today. His physicians are said to have given assurances that with a careful regimen of treatment they can effect a cure, but worry is said to be retarding the Emperor's recovery.

AMSTERDAM, March 28. Indications that Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, will renew Germany's peace offer and perhaps enlarge upon it in a speech in the Reichstag tomorrow, were strengthened by advice from Berlin today.

Travelers from Germany say that a new German peace offer at this time would be regarded not only as a special bait to Russia, but also as a sop to Socialists in Germany.

The German Chancellor was scheduled to speak in the Prussian Diet today.

One report is that Germany has already offered tentative peace terms to Russia, the terms including autonomy for Poland, internationalization of Constantinople, Russian domination in Armenia and, in return, Russian evacuation of Austrian territory now held.

German Food Dictator Batschke admitted to the Reichstag today that there had been an overestimate in the amount of Germany's food supplies, according to Berlin advices.

Batschke was quoted in commenting on the seriousness of the German food situation, as saying that increased production "was impossible, owing to lack of labor and enormous difficulties of transport."

The foregoing dispatch strengthens reports current during the last two weeks that the Chancellor would renew Germany's peace offer, including a proposal for an armistice, in the immediate future.

The fact that von Bethmann-Hollweg has chosen to deliver his address before the convening of Congress in extra session at Washington is also interpreted as a probable effort to placate the United States.

The Chancellor's address in the Prussian Diet today will be devoted entirely to internal political reforms. The Prussian Diet is the keystone of German political reaction and also the center of rebellious Socialist agitation.

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NEW AND POWERFUL COAL TRUST SUSPECTED

Government Experts Investigating Alleged Combination to Increase Prices

WASHINGTON, March 28. Suspicion is rapidly growing in Government circles that a new and gigantic coal trust is in operation. It became known today that the Interstate Commerce Commission has set its experts to investigating the matter.

The new trust is alleged to be catering largely to the railroad interests and embracing certain other rail supplies besides coal.

BRITISH PURSUE Foe as French Press on Laon

Haig's Men Take Boyelles—Push on Cambrai Railway

BIG BATTLE RAGES FOR GOBAIN FOREST

Fighting Particularly Severe in Margival, Vregny and Vailly Sectors

MOVEMENTS IN ALSACE

LONDON, March 28. German troops have begun the evacuation of Muelhausen and other parts of upper Alsace, says a Rotterdam dispatch to the Daily News today. The telegram quotes advices to the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant from Zurich as the source of its information. It is stated that the German line is being moved back to the Rhine and that the civilian population is going to the Black Forest.

General Nivelle is driving his wedge with sledge-hammer blows against the Germans today north of La Fere and at the same time, by hot pursuit, is forging another wedge in the direction of Laon. The most bitter fighting of the advance and the retreat so far is centering around the point of this second wedge near St. Gobain forest, into which the French now seek to penetrate, following their capture of Coucy wood and four nearby villages.

The French have taken important positions in the region of Leilly Neuville and have advanced north of the Ailette. In the meantime, on the British front, the fighting is still of the open variety, as opposed to the masses of men now coming to grips on the French sectors.

The British are steadily forging ahead, cavalry and armored cars harassing the retreating Germans. They have occupied the village of Bayelle and have pushed back the Germans upon the

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WRECKED INDIANA TOWN SENDS APPEAL FOR AID

Thirty-seven Killed, Hundreds Injured and 2500 Homeless as Result of Tornado

New Albany, the Indiana town wrecked by a tornado, which killed thirty-seven, injured several hundred and made 2500 homeless, needs \$250,000 at once to carry on the relief work among its stricken population. N. V. Knight, treasurer of the citizens' relief committee of the town, sent Mayor Smith the following telegram today:

"Our city helpless in face of tremendous disaster. Tornado killed thirty-seven, wounded several hundred, made 2500 homeless and caused \$1,000,000 damage to homes and factories. Every business man trying to restore normal conditions, but burden too great for this community alone. In face of this terrible disaster, we have no hesitation in urging your consideration of financial help in raising \$250,000 needed by Red Cross Society to carry on relief work. Any sum you may care to send will be thankfully received."

Boyertown Dairy Buildings Burned

READING, Pa., March 28.—Fire today destroyed the stone and brick barn and other outbuildings on the Mountain Dairy Farm near Boyertown, this county, owned by John L. Rhoads, of this city, entailing a loss of over \$100,000.

ARMORIES FILL AS GUARDSMEN ANSWER CALL

First and Third Gather to Be Mustered in by United States

CALL FROM BRUMBAUGH

Independence Hall Used Fifth Time for Recruiting

INDEPENDENCE HALL, the "Cradle of Liberty," was opened today as a recruiting station for the fifth time in the nation's history. Recruiting quarters on main floor facing Chestnut street.

Use of building offered by Mayor Smith to Commandant Russell, of the navy yard, who is in command of Naval Coast Defense Reserve.

Independence Hall used as recruiting station in Revolutionary War, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Mayor Smith in making the offer said:

"The city of Philadelphia, always proud of its history, has today offer again the use of a room in this building, the birthplace of the nation, to the Government of the United States."

Two Philadelphia regiments, the First and Third Infantry, responded to the call to the colors today.

Officers and men of both regiments reported at their armories at 7 o'clock this morning ready for service. They probably will be mustered into the Federal service within several days.

The Third Regiment will parade on South Broad street this afternoon from the armory at Broad and Wharton streets as a means of inspiring patriotism and encouraging recruiting. The total strength of this regiment was found to be about 850 at the assembly this morning. This, however, does not include the new recruits which number a force when the office closed last evening.

Governor Brumbaugh will meet the Public Safety Committee of Pennsylvania today in the executive offices in Harrisburg to plan and discuss measures of military preparedness for the State.

The committee consists of leading citizens from every county in the commonwealth and nearly every member of the body is there to attend the conference.

Governor Brumbaugh will be the principal speaker. George Wharton Pepper, of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee, was the guest of the Governor at the Executive Mansion last night and also will be among the speakers today.

The list of Philadelphians who have accepted the invitations to be members of the

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ADRIATIC, FROM U. S., SAFE IN BRITISH PORT

Third Armed Liner to Leave New York Runs U-Boat Blockade

QUICK NEWS

FOUR MORE GUARD REGIMENTS CALLED TO U. S. SERVICE

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The First West Virginia, the Seventy-fourth New York Infantry, the Second Connecticut Infantry and the Second New Jersey Infantry National Guard regiments were today ordered into Federal service for purposes of police protection.

COMMISSION UPHOLDS ROADS' SPECIAL LOADING CHARGE

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today held justified a rule of the western classification which provides for loading and unloading charges of one and one-fourth cents a hundred pounds on less than carload shipments transported at carload rates. The present rule was sought to be changed to provide for the assessment of loading and unloading charges on such shipments on the basis of the carload minimum weight.

BRITAIN'S FARMERS URGED TO INCREASE THEIR CROPS

LONDON, March 28.—The British farmers are being mobilized. For the time being, the hand that guides the plowshare directs the tide of war. Premier Lloyd George has sent a personal letter to every farmer in the country pointing out that the next few weeks will decide the harvest and urging that every available acre be sown.

FRANCE HAS OFFICERS TO TRAIN U. S. RECRUITS

PARIS, March 28.—If the United States declares war upon Germany, France will at once place at the disposal of the American War Office a body of seasoned officers to train United States recruits for active service. This was learned here today from an authentic source. Already some infantry, cavalry and artillery officers have been selected, it is said.

MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIERS CALLED FOR GUARD DUTY

BOSTON, Mass., March 28.—Company E, Ninth Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, was the first to be called for actual guard duty today. Orders have been received from General Leonard Wood, commander of the Department of the East, to station that company "somewhere in Massachusetts."

RUMANIANS IN U. S. LOYAL TO AMERICA

TRENTON, March 28.—As an indication that the Rumanian people of this country are patriotic and willing to co-operate with the United States in case of war with Germany, Governor Edge has received a letter from the Rev. D. G. Lucean, of this city, chairman of the executive board of the Rumanian national committee, pledging support to the Government in the present national crisis.

GERMANY'S HAND IN ARGENTINA'S WHEAT EMBARGO

BUENOS AIRES, March 28.—Pro-Allies in Argentina frankly voiced the belief today that there were German influences behind the Argentine Government's wheat embargo. The English newspaper Herald declared its belief today that "President Irigoyen unquestionably acted in good faith, but we suspect subtle influences contributed to his decision." There was no doubt, however, about the popular approval of the embargo plan. Native Argentines are unanimous in supporting it.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN KILLED BY P. R. R. TRAIN

An unidentified man was killed by a train on the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Holmesburg today. The body was discovered lying along side of the track by William Harper, the station agent at Holmesburg Station. The dead man is described as about twenty-five years old, five feet nine inches in height. He wore a dark suit of clothes, tan shoes, gray sweater and socks.

DANISH ISLES NAMED VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR TIME

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Uncle Sam's new insular possessions, formerly the Danish West Indies, will be temporarily known as the Virgin Islands, the Navy Department announced today. The navy will take formal possession next Saturday and will remain in control of this important strategic Atlantic position. The Governor of the islands will be Admiral James H. Oliver, who has been chief of the Bureau of Intelligence.

CLARK VS. MANN FOR SPEAKER; J. HAMPTON MOORE SEES EVEN CHANCE IN ELECTION MONDAY

Congressman, in Special Article for Evening Ledger, Declares Republicans Are Unit in Backing Illinoisan to Preside Over House

By J. HAMPTON MOORE

WASHINGTON, March 28.—When Congress assembles in extra session at the President's call on Monday next the first consideration will be the organization of the House. There will be no European war business, nor any other, until this important piece of routine procedure is disposed of by a vote of the House.

All pending matter, all bills, resolutions and the like died when the Sixty-fourth Congress adjourned without day March 4 last at high noon. All measures on the calendar not then reached and all matters unfinished before the committees "gave up the ghost" along with the army bill, the sundry civil bill, the rivers and harbors bill and the various other appropriation bills that failed of final passage.

The new Congress, being a law unto itself, will deal with these matters and such new projects as may be presented as if there had been no Sixty-fourth Congress. Much of the old material being in convenient form for prompt action by the committees of the new Congress will doubtless be of service to the new members, but none of it is binding upon the new body.

The right of one Congress to disregard the work of its predecessor is inviolate. A new Congress comes fresh from the people, according to the theory that holds here, and is therefore more responsive to the will of the people. Therefore an expiring Congress cannot and its successor, each Congress for itself, so runs the practice and the law.

Into the new Congress will come a large proportion of new faces, the Republican gains being greater than the Democratic, and all of these new members anxious to start out right are looking forward to recognition. They want to be considered in the House organization and they will line up with their party chiefs in the hope

of obtaining important committee assignments.

Every new man counts for something at home and will naturally seek to count for something in Washington, but there will be disappointments; that is inevitable. Which ever party wins the House organization will win the committee chairmanships and the patronage about the Capitol, which is now Democratic; but the party which loses is relieved of the responsibility and can fight freely, which is something of compensation, at least, to a virile minority.

HIRAM JOHNSON SPEAKER AT BIG MASS-MEETING

Senator-Elect Announced as Independence Square Orator

MAYOR ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF RALLY

Demonstration Will Collect at Least 50,000 Eager Patriots

OVERFLOW PROVIDED FOR



California Senator-elect has accepted the committee's invitation to be the orator at the Independence Square rally on Saturday.

Senator-elect Hiram W. Johnson, of California, will be the orator at the big patriotic mass-meeting in Independence Square Saturday—his first public appearance in the East.

Another speaker of national note will address the meeting in response to an invitation from the White House.

Governor Brumbaugh, his staff and other State officials and the Mayors of Pennsylvania will be present.

All this was announced today by Mayor Smith as the scope of the national demonstration, first suggested by the Evening Ledger, widened and the movement for the largest patriotic meeting ever held in this country gained momentum.

ACCEPTS BY TELEGRAM

Mayor Smith today exchanged telegrams with Senator Johnson. The former Governor of California, speeding eastward in the Overland Limited to attend the special session of Congress, was intercepted in Kansas by the Mayor's telegram, inviting him to speak at the meeting. Senator Johnson wired his acceptance.

The willingness of the noted California Progressive to address the meeting was hailed with joy. His speech will mark his first public address in the East since his election as Senator, and will antedate his taking his seat in the Senate, to which he was elected last fall in the election which he is generally accredited with swinging toward President Wilson.

Mayor Smith today received a letter from Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the President, expressing the President's regret that he could not leave his post at Washington to address the meeting, but that he was heartily in favor of it.

ANOTHER NATIONAL SPEAKER

In response to an urgent telegram from the Mayor, Secretary Tumulty replied that he would obtain a speaker of national reputation to address the meeting. The White House and all Washington, he added, looked with favor and high interest on the gathering. Secretary Tumulty's letter today supplemented a long-distance telephone conversation between the Mayor and the White House last night.

With speakers of "big caliber" assured, the other details worked hard today in completing the major plans for the demonstration, which promises to exceed all expectations.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

When the general committee met in the office of Thomas Robins, Franklin Bank Building today, he announced as assisting him on the reception committee Saturday the following: Bayard Henry, Judge J. Willis Martin, John Cadwalader, Cyrus M. Anderson, William S. Emerson, Roland S. Morris, Francis B. Biddle, Edward T. Stotesbury, Ernest T. Trigg and Dr. Charles Bingham Penrose. Their duty will be to take care of the speakers and all who come with the speakers.

Henry Gordon Thunders came to the meeting and announced his willingness to help all he could. Offers of help were received from the Orpheus and Fortnightly Singing Clubs, and under Mr. Thunders' direction they will be used as a singing nucleus by the thousands in Independence Square Saturday. The music will be by the Police Band.

News came to the committee that Mrs. E. P. Stotesbury had solved the obstacle of familiarity with the words by agreeing to print at her own expense 200,000 pamphlets with the printed words of the

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Women Prepare for Service to Nation in Event of War

Special photographs showing new fields for feminine activity and administration in defense and relief work

Tomorrow's Evening Ledger